

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 21-63 will be pending, claims 23 and 29-32 having been amended and claims 41-63 having been added. Prompt and favorable examination is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"**.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: 

Paul T. Bowen

Reg. No.: 38,009

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2020

Timothy A. Beets

Reg. No.: 50,824

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2014

PTB/TAB

1600 Tysons Boulevard

McLean, VA 22102

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2000

Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 23, 25 and 29-32 are amended as follows:

23. (Amended) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 22, wherein said cantilever member has a leading end, a trailing end, a locking portion, located intermediate said leading end and trailing end, structured to engage with said first connector portion, and release portion located adjacent said trailing end.

25. (Amended) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 24 [25], wherein a space is provided immediately behind said trailing end of the cantilever member.

29. (Amended) A respiratory mask [and headgear combination] according to claim 28, wherein the mask frame includes a front wall portion defining a forward end of the mask frame, the front wall portion having a circular gas inlet aperture configured to connect to a gas delivery conduit, the mask frame including a pair of inclined side wall portions and a base portion, each of the side wall portions and the base portion having a portion thereof connected to the front wall portion.

30. (Amended) A respiratory mask [and headgear combination] according to claim 29, wherein the mask frame includes a rim at rear edges of the inclined side wall portions and the base portion, the rim defining a rearward end of the mask frame and being configured to allow a cushion to be attached thereto.

31. (Amended) A respiratory mask [and headgear combination] according to claim 29, wherein each of the female connector portions includes a generally oblong slot, each generally oblong slot being formed by a first wall structure that is disposed between respective side wall portions and the base portion, a pair of parallel spaced opposing wall structures extending generally perpendicularly from the first wall structure and a second wall structure extending between and connected to the pair of spaced opposing wall structures, the second wall structure being spaced from and generally parallel to the first wall structure, each

of the first and second wall structures and the pair of spaced opposing wall structures having an inward end portion and an outward end portion defining a direction that extends generally radially outwardly relative to the circular gas inlet aperture, the outward end portions defining the generally oblong slot therebetween.

32. (Amended) A respiratory mask [and headgear combination] according to claim 31, wherein the second wall structure includes at least one recess extending therethrough configured to cooperate and receive the at least one resiliently biased locking element of the respective male connector portions, the at least one recess being formed adjacent each generally oblong slot.

Claims 41-63 are added.

END OF APPENDIX